



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

DIRECTORATE-GENERAL JUSTICE, FREEDOM AND SECURITY

The Acting Deputy Director General

Brussels,
JLS/A2/LW-ej D(2010) 7072

Mr Samir Rizvo
Assistant Minister
Head of the Sector for International
Cooperation
Ministry of Security
Bosnia and Herzegovina

By email: bh-mission-04@skynet.be

Dear Mr Rizvo,

At our recent Senior Officials' meeting on 6 May 2010, we discussed the final Commission services' assessment of the fulfilment by Bosnia and Herzegovina of the criteria of the roadmap towards visa liberalisation. I would once again like to congratulate you and your services on the very significant progress made by Bosnia and Herzegovina across all areas. While the large majority of the benchmarks have been met, the Commission services' assessment identified the need for further progress in the following areas:

- the strengthening of capacities of law enforcement and the effective implementation of the legal framework for the fight against organised crime and corruption, including through the allocation of adequate human and financial resources;
- progressive implementation of the action plan from March 2010 on establishment of electronic data exchange between police and prosecution bodies;
- the harmonisation of entity level and Brcko district criminal codes with the state-level criminal code.

The Commission services will therefore continue to verify progress on these three issues and carry out an additional expert mission. To that end, I would like to ask you to kindly submit a report on progress made in those areas by 25 June 2010. With a view to helping your services to prepare such a report as well as to identifying possible actions still to be taken in those areas, you will find in annex a list of elements that, within the framework of the roadmap, would be used by the Commission services as terms of reference for the expert mission.

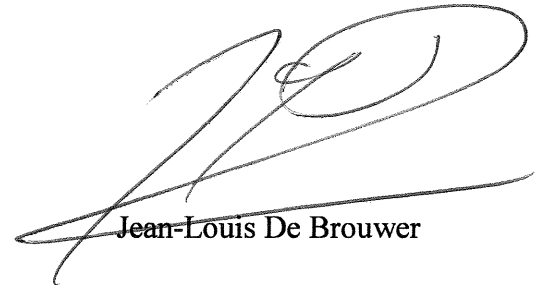
Depending on progress reported by Bosnia and Herzegovina, we could foresee the mission to be held in the first half of July. The timing of this mission should be agreed in consultation with you during the coming weeks.

Sustainable implementation of all benchmarks of the visa liberalisation dialogue will be important and the Commission will further monitor this across all areas of the dialogue.

Preparation is ongoing for a Commission legislative proposal to lift the short-term visa obligation for the citizens of Bosnia and Herzegovina on the condition that the outstanding benchmarks will be met. Following its adoption, the Commission will transmit the proposal to the Council and the European Parliament and keep these institutions fully informed of the progress made by Bosnia and Herzegovina in meeting the outstanding requirements. On this basis, the Council and the European Parliament would then decide on the final adoption.

Finally, allow me to once again congratulate your country for the progress achieved so far in the visa liberalisation process and to encourage the authorities of Bosnia and Herzegovina to continue activities in order to fulfil the remaining benchmarks.

Yours sincerely,



Jean-Louis De Brouwer

Annex 1: List of elements

Annex 2: Final May 2010 Commission services' assessment of the fulfilment by Bosnia and Herzegovina of the criteria of the roadmap for visa liberalisation

- **1) the strengthening of capacities of law enforcement and the effective implementation of the legal framework for the fight against organised crime and corruption, including through the allocation of adequate human and financial resources;**
 - Reporting on effective implementation of the **revised Action Plans** and legal framework for the fight against organized crime
 - Strengthening the administrative and investigative capacities of the law enforcement authorities. Amongst other measures, the following should be considered:
 - providing **specialised training** aimed at further developing investigative means and intelligence-led investigations
 - Taking steps to ensure that adequate financial means are available to specialised units in the fight against organised crime and corruption
 - Strengthening human resources in police bodies
 - Reporting on improving **operational cooperation** between law enforcement agencies in the fight against organised crime and corruption. This shall include:
 - Initiatives to reinforce systematic cooperation and exchange of intelligence amongst different agencies.
 - Reporting on continued implementation of the Action Plan on the fight against **corruption**, including strengthening the institutional capacities.
 - Reporting on investigative and judicial activities undertaken by the competent authorities in cases of organised crime and corruption.
- **2) progressive implementation of the action plan from March 2010 on establishment of electronic data exchange between police and prosecution bodies;**
 - adoption and starting implementation of **internal rulebook** of the Police Cooperation Directorate
 - progressive recruitment of staff in the Police coordination Directorate
 - allocation of premises to the new Directorate
 - in parallel with activities at central level, signatories of the agreement on electronic data exchange should start preparations for future connection to the exchange server (e.g. regarding readiness of their databases and available and planned resources for running and maintaining the data exchange system).
- **3) the harmonisation of entity level and Brcko district criminal codes with the state-level criminal code.**
 - Adoption of the amendments to the criminal code in the two entities and Brcko district.